**Diga innovation platform meeting 21/7/11**

**Venue: Diga Woreda Administration Office**

**Participants from Addis Ababa: Alan Duncan, Eva Ludi, Josephine Tucker and Alemayehu Belay**

Alemayehu Belay welcomed participants and chaired a round of introductions

Alan introduced the NBDC and Nile 2 projects

Alan and Eva introduced previous experiences, Ripple and FAP

**Discussion**

Alemayehu Wolde (irrigation team leader): How did you choose the sites – are they similar or different?

Alan answered: They were chosen on the basis of representing variation in agro-ecology and market access.

Alemayehu Wolde: How will we choose farmers? Which will be beneficiaries? Ans: We won’t pre-select but selection will be dependent on the issue, but the benefits should eventually benefit all.

Samuel: Do you have someone ready to implement? Already lots of research outputs on shelf waiting for implementation.

Ans: No-one lined up but we have links that could be drawn on. Also it is up to platform to act and we don’t promise to bring lots of implementation funds. E.g. SLM could be approached.

Beyene (agriculture office head): this is our routine activity e.g. if SWC it will be part of NRM office. Should not be seen as something outside. Should not let financial constraints stop us. Even if previous projects have not fully utilized research results we should engage in this project as an opportunity.

Alemayehu Wolde: When we go to work on kebeles, what is platform role? Is it equipping and training or is it financing and implementing?

Ans: Need to work out how platform links with communities e.g. one approach could be to have working groups in kebeles. Often solutions are not technical requiring large funds but are organizational.

Beyene: pointed out that the platform represents a good opportunity for building collaboration across sectoral teams. We shouldn’t wait for solutions to come from outside but use platform as a way of building our capacity to work better together.

Dagnachew Lule (BARC): we should not wait for solutions to come from outside but should use this opportunity to improve our collaborative working.

Alemayehu Wolde: What about sustainability of the platform?

Ans: yes sustainability is an issue but the platform doesn’t have to survive for ever as long as capacity to innovate is left behind.

Dagnachew then described the process and initial outcomes of the baseline study.

**Group work**

**What are the three most important problems in Diga in relation to land and water management?**

Head of offices/administration

* Lack of understanding of what land and water management means.
* Lack of scientific implementation of rainwater management interventions. i.e. interventions not implemented according to recommendations.
* Farmers have a very short time horizon in running their farms. Thinking about today not tomorrow.

Experts

* Farmers don’t understand how to manage land and water
* Poor implementation of land use policy. Policy is good but implementation is weak.
* Weak M&E. No follow up.
* Population growth leads to farmers cultivating steep slopes leading to deforestation, soil erosion etc.

Farmers

* Lack of awareness of land and water management
* Inappropriate ploughing – vertical rather than horizontal
* Population increase

**What are the three main constraints to enhanced production?**

Administration

* Land degradation
* Poor farming practices and poor use of new technologies. Farmers only implement what they know – don’t use new knowledge. This leads to overgrazing and deforestation
* Lack of finance (for WoARD to pilot new approaches?)

Experts

* Declining soil fertility due to erosion
* Poor extension system
* Problems related to ag inputs such as fertilizer and chemicals
  + Time of delivery
  + Quantity
  + Quality
  + Economic feasibility

Farmers

* Poor soil fertility
* Pests and diseases
* Farmers not properly applying agricultural technologies according to recommendations

Eva: “Lack of awareness” seems common over all three groups. Because of lack of time, we will need to postpone discussion of terms of reference, preliminary identification of initial activities of platform etc until the next meeting.

What about dates?: Alemayehu Belay should communicate with W/zo Bekelech and Ato Beyene nearer the time to arrange a date.

Who else should be invited?: NRM DA’s and more farmers should be invited.

Ato Fufa Takle of Hundee briefly introduced the local activities of Hundee including countering harmful traditional practices and female genital mutilation.

Final words of thanks from Mulugeta: He pointed out importance of platform. “Change belongs not only to Obama but also to Diga”. Platform can help contribute solutions to land and water management problems in Diga.

**List of Participants at the first Innovation Platform meeting, Diga wereda, July 21, 2011**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **Name** | **Office** | **Role/Responsibility** | **Contact Number** |
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| 2 | Mulugeta Fantahun | Woreda Office of Administration | Consultant to the head and OPDO office head | 0917814777 |
| 3 | Beyene Gebissa | Woreda Office of Agriculture and Administration | Office head for agriculture | 0913229481 |
| 4 | Samuel Tamene | Woreda Office of Agriculture | vice head | 0917038390 |
| 5 | Shibru Gurmessa | Woreda Office of Agriculture | NRM team leader | 0911026757 |
| 6 | Alemu Biratu | Woreda Office of Agriculture | Extension team leader | 0917839467 |
| 7 | Fufa Takele | HUNDEE | Nekemt area office coordinator | 0913208610 |
| 8 | Taye Tesfa | Woreda office of cooperative promotion | Office manager |  |
| 9 | Alemayehu Wolde | Woreda Office of Agriculture | Irrigation team leader | 0917812788 |
| 10 | Dereje Kebede | Woreda office of Animal development and health | Office manager | 0917816639 |
| 11 | Desalegn Sori | Woreda Office of Agriculture | Planning expert | 0917814321 |
| 12 | Takele Gobena | Woreda office of Land Administration | Office head | 0917816561 |
| 13 | Teshome Hambisa | Office of Disaster Preparedness and Prevention | Team leader | 0917135131 |
| 14 | Meseret Negash | Bako Agricultural Research Center | Center director | 0911798905 |
| 15 | Daganchew Lule | Bako Agricultural Research Center | Crop research coordinator | 0911813638 |
| 16 | Berhanu Insa | Bako Agricultural Research Center | NRM researcher |  |
| 17 | Asfaw Wakjira | Arjo peasant association | Farmer | 0917039682 |
| 18 | Girma Itana | Lelisa Dimtu Kebele | Farmer | 0917049545 |
| 29 | Fufa Gudeta | Bikila Kebele | Farmer | 0917444909 |
| 20 | Mosissa Benti | Gudisa Kebele | Farmer |  |
| 21 | Chanyalew Drirsa | Adugna Kebele | Farmer |  |
| 22 | Alemayehu Belay | International Livestock Research Institute | Researcher |  |
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